



The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Washington State
Department of Transportation

City of Seattle

APRIL 2006 COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project database contains 6,935 comments, 108 of which were submitted in April 2006.

Origin of Comments

Of the comments, 82 were received from community briefings, 20 were submitted by email, and one was submitted by mail. Five comment forms from the March 2006 viaduct inspection were submitted during the month.

Forty-four comments were received from the central area of the project, twenty-five comments were from the south area, and three comments came from the south region of the project. Six comments came from outside the project area. The origin of thirty comments could not be determined, either because respondents did not identify their location, or because the comments were received from a briefing with a non geographic-specific organization.

Comment Categories

Each comment submitted is categorized by the content of the message. Please note that depending on content, some comments were grouped into more than one category. There are 60 comment categories divided into six sections. The sections are economic, structures/locations, transportation, transit, design and construction, and environmental/public safety. The comment categories range from cost and freight to traffic, air pollution and public safety.

Comments were received in the areas listed below. These are groups of similar categories with the ideas that were expressed in the comments.

Design/Construction:

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the seawall, and engineering. There were 35 comments identified in this group.

- How long will there be zero north/south traffic?
- My understanding is that with the elevated structure, it would take longer to build, but we could keep the corridor open to traffic longer. Is this correct?
- You said there will be an 18-month window for utilities relocation. Is this a large enough window?

Transportation:

This group includes categories such as traffic, connections/circulations, pedestrians, and bicycles. There were 33 comments in this group.

- Why not let Mercer and Aurora connect?
- Have you taken into consideration the increased traffic due to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver?
- With the new south end alignment, will there be street crossings that directly access the Port?

Economic:

This group includes categories such as cost, funding, property value/acquisition, and tolls. There were 29 comments in this group.

- Is there dialog between WSDOT and SDOT about the impact this project will have on businesses?
- Will commercial development be allowed on the land that is freed up by building the tunnel?
- Have you thought about prioritizing freight traffic?

Environmental/Public Safety:

This group includes categories like noise, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. There were nine comments in this group.

- Could you cover the lowered part of Aurora with a lid and make a park?
- Will the project exacerbate storm water run-off problems?

Transit:

This group includes categories like monorail, light rail, and transit. There were eight comments in this group.

- You mentioned possibly using ferries to mitigate traffic. Aren't they planning to move the ferry terminal?
- Is the streetcar a necessity for the project?

Structures/Location:

This group includes categories like the seawall, historic structures and districts, portals, stadiums and South Lake Union. There were five comments in this group.

- When will the north seawall be replaced?
- What is the budget for the seawall?